



Heavy debris buildup on Butte Creek caused by a large storm.

Award Amount
\$582,510

Watershed
Butte Creek Watershed

County
Butte, Tehama, Plumas, Glenn, Colusa, and Sutter Counties

CALFED Region
Sacramento Valley Region

Legislative Districts
US Congress: 2
State Assembly: 3
State Senate: 4

Purpose

This project develops a Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) for the Butte Creek Watershed in alignment with an Integrated Hazard Mitigation Plan for Butte County.

Project Goals

- Develop flood protection measures that protect life and property as well as enhance fish and wildlife habitat.
- Encourage coordination among the agencies responsible for providing flood protection, post-flood restoration, and protection of habitat.
- Build on an existing stakeholder process for public involvement and outreach, and develop/initiate public education in local schools.
- Support the development of pre- and post-flood emergency response efforts.

Benefits to the CALFED Program

The Butte Creek Watershed FMP reduces erosion and silt loads during flood events and reduces contaminants entering the Butte Creek Watershed, thereby improving water quality and overall watershed health. Butte Creek is a priority stream of the Ecosystem Restoration Program and flows to the Bay-Delta via the Sacramento River. These improvements also benefit the watershed's salmon runs, which include the endangered spring-run Chinook salmon. Using their stakeholder-driven process to develop a FMP, the Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy (Conservancy) facilitates and improves coordination, collaboration, and assistance among government agencies, other organizations, and local watershed groups, and familiarizes stakeholders with Conservancy and CALFED Program goals.

Project Overview

This project develops a Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) for the Butte Creek Watershed. The Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy (Conservancy) was formed to preserve, enhance, and restore the economic and ecological heritage of the Butte Creek Watershed by engaging local landowners to encourage stewardship and community participation. The impetus for this management plan was conceived through the Conservancy's stakeholder-driven process that facilitates coordinated management of resources to maintain a sustainable river ecosystem for the Butte Creek Watershed. Through this process, the Conservancy identified issues and concerns important to the local community. These are the cornerstones of the FMP. They include: education and public outreach, recreation, fisheries, fuel load, timber management, and roads. In addition, the current FMP work concerns groundwater, water supply, water quality, and flood damage control. Education and public outreach are important aspects of FMP development. Educating the public provides opportunities for the Conservancy to advance public awareness of the health of the community's watershed. Ultimately, the FMP will provide guidelines and measures for landowners and federal, state, and local government agencies to protect public health and safety from the impacts of flooding. Measures developed in the Plan will reduce the potential for soil erosion and release of chemicals during flood events; provide resource allocation guidelines for emergency response and preparedness, and present methodologies to potentially lower insurance costs to property owners. The FMP is integrated into, and used to define aspects of, an Integrated Hazard Mitigation Plan for countywide implementation. Through Conservancy partnerships with the Butte County Resource Conservation District, the City of Chico, Big and Little Chico Creek Watersheds, and the Cherokee Watershed, results and methods developed for the FMP will be disseminated across jurisdictional and watershed delineations.



Floodwaters can cause major damage. Floodwater management and damage reduction are key goals of the Butte Creek FMP.

Contact Information

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